

Applicant : David Carver et al.
Serial No. : 09/723,385
Filed : November 28, 2000
Page : 2 of 13

Attorney's Docket No.: 07442-023001

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-307. (Cancelled)

308. (Previously Presented) A content and service handling method comprising:
maintaining an inventory of advertising opportunities in content and services; and
binding inventory with advertisements each including additional information pertaining
to binding.

309. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 308 further comprising delivering the
bound inventory.

310. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 308 in which the inventory is controlled
by an entity.

311. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 310 in which the entity is a service
provider.

312. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 310 in which the entity is a network
affiliate.

313. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 310 in which the entity is a network
provider.

Applicant : David Carver et al.
Serial No. : 09/723,385
Filed : November 28, 2000
Page : 3 of 13

Attorney's Docket No.: 07442-023001

314. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 310 in which the entity is a content provider.
315. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 308 in which the inventory is controlled by a plurality of entities.
316. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 308 in which different portions of the inventory are controlled by a plurality of entities.
317. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 316 further comprising binding advertisements by an operator on behalf of the plurality of entities.
318. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 309 in which delivering is in response to a request for content.
- 319-340. (Cancelled)
341. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 308 in which each advertisement includes guidance information.
342. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 341 in which guidance information includes advertisement insertion information.
343. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 341 in which guidance information includes information about an intended audience.

Applicant : David Carver et al.
Serial No. : 09/723,385
Filed : November 28, 2000
Page : 4 of 13

Attorney's Docket No.: 07442-023001

344. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 343 in which the information about the intended audience includes a mailing list.

345. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 343 in which the information about the intended audience a phone list.

346. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 341 in which guidance information includes scheduling information.

347. (Previously Presented) An interactive advertising system comprising:
a store of advertisements;
an inventory representing advertising opportunities in content and services; and
a service binding advertisements to inventory.

348. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 347 further comprising a means for delivering the inventory bound with advertisements to a terminal device.

349. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 348 in which the terminal device is a set top box.

350. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 347 in which the inventory is controlled by an entity.

351. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 350 in which the entity is a local network operator.

Applicant : David Carver et al.
Serial No. : 09/723,385
Filed : November 28, 2000
Page : 5 of 13

Attorney's Docket No.: 07442-023001

352. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 350 wherein the entity is a network affiliate operator.

353. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 350 in which the entity is a network operator.

354. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 350 in which the entity is a content provider.

355. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 347 in which the inventory is owned by a plurality of entities.

356-373. (Cancelled)

374. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 347 in which each of the advertisements includes guidance information.

375. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 374 in which guidance information includes advertisement insertion information.

376. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 374 in which guidance information includes information about an intended audience.

377. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 376 in which guidance information includes an address list.

Applicant : David Carver et al.
Serial No. : 09/723,385
Filed : November 28, 2000
Page : 6 of 13

Attorney's Docket No.: 07442-023001

378. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 376 in which guidance information includes a phone list.

379. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 374 in which guidance information includes scheduling information.

380. (New) A method for placement of advertising content or services for presentation to one or more users comprising:

maintaining an inventory of opportunities to present advertising during delivery of content or services to one or more users;

binding advertising to the inventory according to one or more of information, instructions, procedures, and software programs associated with the advertising; and

composing advertising content associated with the advertising with the content or services.

381. (New) The method of claim 380 further comprising delivering the composed content to the one or more users.

382. (New) The method of claim 380 further comprising importing the advertising content from an advertiser's network.

383. (New) The method of claim 382 further comprising importing self-guiding advertisements that include the one or more of information, instructions, procedures, and software programs for binding the advertisement to the inventory.

Applicant : David Carver et al.
Serial No. : 09/723,385
Filed : November 28, 2000
Page : 7 of 13

Attorney's Docket No.: 07442-023001

384. (New) The method of claim 383 wherein binding the advertising to the content includes binding the advertising using the one or more of instructions, procedures, and software programs to discover one or more of inventory, user information, and information to be factored into a binding decision.

385. (New) The method of claim 380 further comprising importing data associated with advertising copy for binding the advertising to the inventory.

386. (New) The method of claim 385 wherein importing the data associated with the advertising copy includes one or more of information, instructions, procedures, and software programs.

387. (New) The method of claim 386 wherein the advertisements contain both the advertising copy and the one or more of information, instructions, procedures, and software programs.

388. (New) The method of claim 380 further comprising importing ancillary data associated with the content or services.

389. (New) The method of claim 388 wherein the ancillary data includes available advertising times associated with the content or services.

390. (New) The method of claim 388 wherein importing the ancillary data includes importing said data conveyed in-band with its associated content.

391. (New) The method of claim 388 wherein importing the ancillary data includes importing said data conveyed out-of-band from its associated content.

Applicant : David Carver et al.
Serial No. : 09/723,385
Filed : November 28, 2000
Page : 8 of 13

Attorney's Docket No.: 07442-023001

392. (New) The method of claim 380 further comprising importing and storing data associated with the advertising for use to associate advertising content with other content..

393. (New) The method of claim 392 wherein binding the advertising to the inventory includes using the stored data associated with the advertising.

394. (New) The method of claim 380 wherein binding the advertising to the inventory includes optimizing the binding using factors that include information about available advertising and information about the content and service with which the advertising is to be associated.

395. (New) The method of claim 394 wherein the factors used to optimize the binding include one or more of advertiser agreements, advertising placements schedules, and useful lifetimes for advertising.

396. (New) The method of claim 380 wherein maintaining an inventory includes maintaining an inventory of dynamically appearing inventory.

397. (New) The method of claim 396 wherein the content or service includes a time-shifted viewing of content.

398. (New) The method of claim 396 wherein binding the advertising to the inventory includes dynamic binding of the advertising to the dynamically appearing inventory before the inventory is consumed.

399. (New) The method of claim 398 wherein the dynamic binding includes binding the advertising just in time before the inventory is consumed;

Applicant : David Carver et al.
Serial No. : 09/723,385
Filed : November 28, 2000
Page : 9 of 13

Attorney's Docket No.: 07442-023001

400. (New) The method of claim 396 wherein composing advertising content with the content or services includes replacing advertisements in the content or service.

401. (New) The method of claim 380 wherein composing the advertising content with the content or service includes replacing the advertising content in the content or service.

402. (New) The method of claim 380 further comprising mediating handling of content or services from numerous originators.

403. (New) The method of claim 402 wherein the mediating of the handing of content or services includes mediating handing of the advertising content or services.

404. (New) The method of claim 402 wherein binding the advertising to the inventory includes binding the advertising to an inventory of opportunities in the content or services from the numerous originators.

405. (New) The method of claim 402 wherein the mediating of the handing of content or services includes maintaining an inventory of opportunities in the content or services from the numerous originators.

Applicant : David Carver et al.
Serial No. : 09/723,385
Filed : November 28, 2000
Page : 10 of 13

Attorney's Docket No.: 07442-023001

406. (New) A method for placement and presentation of advertising content or services to one or more users comprising:

maintaining an inventory of opportunities to present advertising during delivery of content or services to one or more users , including maintaining an inventory of dynamically appearing inventory;

binding advertising to the inventory;

composing advertising content associated with the advertising with the content or services; and

delivering the composed content to the one or more users.

407. (New) The method of claim 406 wherein the inventory of dynamically appearing inventory is associated with time-shifted viewing of content.

408. (New) The method of claim 406 further comprising importing self-guiding advertisements that include the one or more of information, instructions, procedures, and software programs for binding the advertisement to the inventory.

409. (New) The method of claim 408 wherein binding the advertising to the inventory includes binding the advertising using the one or more of instructions, procedures, and software programs to discover one or more of inventory, user information, and information to be factored into a binding decision.

410. (New) The method of claim 406 further comprising mediating handling of content or services from numerous originators.

411. (New) The method of claim 410 wherein the mediating of the handling of content or services includes mediating handing of the advertising content or services.

Applicant : David Carver et al.
Serial No. : 09/723,385
Filed : November 28, 2000
Page : 11 of 13

Attorney's Docket No.: 07442-023001

412. (New) The method of claim 410 wherein binding the advertising to the inventory includes binding the advertising to an inventory of opportunities in the content or services from the numerous originators.

413. (New) The method of claim 410 wherein the mediating of the handling of content or services includes maintaining an inventory of opportunities in the content or services from the numerous originators.

414. (New) A method for placement of advertising content or services comprising:
mediating the handling of content and services from numerous originators;
binding advertising to content and services from at least several of the originators; and
generating reports related to the use of the advertising for communication to the
originators of the content and services.

415. (New) The method of claim 414 wherein the content and services from the numerous originators includes advertising content or advertising services from said originators.

416. (New) The method of claim 415 further comprising importing at least some of the content from an advertiser's network.

417. (New) The method of claim 414 further comprising importing the advertising content from an advertiser's network.

Applicant : David Carver et al.
Serial No. : 09/723,385
Filed : November 28, 2000
Page : 12 of 13

Attorney's Docket No.: 07442-023001

418. (New) The method of claim 417 further comprising importing self-guiding advertisements that include the one or more of information, instructions, procedures, and software programs for binding the advertisement to the inventory.

419. (New) The method of claim 418 wherein binding the advertising to the inventory includes binding the advertising using the one or more of instructions, procedures, and software programs to discover one or more of inventory, user information, and information to be factored into a binding decision.

420. (New) The method of claim 414 further comprising maintaining an inventory includes maintaining an inventory of dynamically appearing inventory.

421. (New) The method of claim 420 wherein the content or services includes a time-shifted viewing of content.

422. (New) The method of claim 420 wherein binding the advertising to the content includes dynamic binding of the advertising to the dynamically appearing inventory before the inventory is consumed.